

Agency 303

**Department of Health****Recommendation Summary**

Dollars in Thousands

	Annual FTEs	General Fund State	Other Funds	Total Funds
<b>2003-05 Expenditure Authority</b>	1,265.7	118,917	661,980	780,897
<b>Total Maintenance Level</b>	1,307.3	126,115	738,761	864,876
Difference	41.6	7,198	76,781	83,979
Percent Change from Current Biennium	3.3%	6.1%	11.6%	10.8%
<b>Performance Changes</b>				
Middle Management Reduction	(18.5)	(682)	(1,354)	(2,036)
Prescription Importation #	.2		60	60
Marine Water Quality	2.9	700	600	1,300
County Public Health Assistance			49,000	49,000
General Inflation		(206)	(1,018)	(1,224)
Lead Surveillance	.9	195		195
Fircrest Infrastructure Reconfiguration		177		177
Integrated Licensing and Regulatory System	10.9		3,332	3,332
Public Disclosure Request Increases			523	523
TB Testing - MTD	2.4	580		580
WIC Caseload and Local Agency Support	2.3		368	368
<b>Subtotal</b>	1.1	764	51,511	52,275
<b>Total Proposed Budget</b>	1,308.4	126,879	790,272	917,151
Difference	42.7	7,962	128,292	136,254
Percent Change from Current Biennium	3.4%	6.7%	19.4%	17.4%
<b>Total Proposed Budget by Activity</b>				
Administrative Activity	23.5	4,298	2,274	6,572
Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion	95.1	6,020	94,024	100,044
Drinking Water Protection	152.5	6,373	34,385	40,758
Emergency Preparedness and Response	64.7	7,872	48,799	56,671
Community Environmental Health	111.6	4,266	15,781	20,047
Identify and Track Disease and Risks to the Public	36.1	4,383	9,913	14,296
Shellfish and Food Safety	41.9	5,554	1,002	6,556
Strengthening the Public Health Network	87.4	12,204	86,450	98,654
Communicable and Infectious Disease	81.8	37,100	55,043	92,143
Family and Child Health	141.1	25,617	360,890	386,507
Public Health Laboratory	116.5	8,513	16,673	25,186
Safety and Quality of Health Care Services	368.6	3,092	62,453	65,545
State Board of Health	6.4	1,052		1,052
Compensation Cost Adjustment		1,217	3,939	5,156
Middle Management Reduction	(18.5)	(682)	(1,354)	(2,036)
<b>Total Proposed Budget</b>	1,308.4	126,879	790,272	917,151

## **HUMAN SERVICES - OTHER**

### **PERFORMANCE LEVEL CHANGE DESCRIPTIONS**

#### **Middle Management Reduction**

The Governor has directed that middle management be reduced by 1,000 positions by the end of the biennium. This item is this agency's share of the statewide amount.

#### **Prescription Importation #**

Governor Gregoire-request legislation (SSB 5470) directs the State Board of Health (SBOH) and the Department of Health (DOH) to work with the Health Care Authority to submit a waiver to the federal government. The waiver will authorize the state of Washington to license Canadian, United Kingdom, Irish, and other nondomestic prescription drug wholesalers, thereby providing retail pharmacies licensed in Washington state the opportunity to purchase prescription drugs from approved nondomestic wholesalers and pass those savings on to consumers. The SBOH and DOH are further directed to work with the Health Care Authority to develop a detailed implementation plan for the Governor and appropriate committees of the Legislature detailing the mechanisms the board will use to implement each component of the waiver. (Health Professions Account-State)

#### **Marine Water Quality**

Twenty-two of Washington's 69 commercial shellfish growing areas are threatened with closure, and harvesting is prohibited at seven areas because of bacteriological contamination. Grants and technical assistance will be provided to local health jurisdictions in marine counties to develop and implement comprehensive, integrated management plans for long-term use of on-site sewage systems in marine areas. Electronic databases will be established to inventory on-site sewage systems in counties with marine shorelines. (General Fund-State, Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account-State)

#### **County Public Health Assistance**

State grant funding for local public health districts is provided to the Department of Health (DOH) to support protection and improvement of the public's health and to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of the public health system. Funds will be provided to local public health departments and districts through performance-based contracts to help attain the standards for public health and to implement the recommendations of the public health improvement plan. A monitoring and reporting mechanism will be established to demonstrate progress toward these goals. (Health Services Account-State)

#### **Lead Surveillance**

Between July 1994 and June 2004, lead surveillance activities were funded through a federal grant which is no longer available. Program activities include maintaining a surveillance system containing reports of all blood lead tests done on Washington state children, sending reports of lead-poisoned children to local health jurisdictions, sending reports of adults with high blood lead levels to the Department of Labor and Industries, and assuring that lead-poisoned children receive appropriate follow-up. The department, until July 2004, also provided public education information, brochures, and technical support to local health agencies. General Fund-State dollars will continue the program, but at 80 percent of its federally-funded level. The department will prioritize program activities that achieve maximum public health benefit.

#### **Fircrest Infrastructure Reconfiguration**

The Shoreline Public Health Laboratory is located on trust property that also houses the Fircrest School. The Legislature has contemplated downsizing the Fircrest School. In the event that Fircrest School's operations are consolidated elsewhere, the public health laboratory will require alternative arrangements for utilities that are currently provided through the school. Further, the Shoreline Planning Committee will require a master plan for approval of capital projects beyond the current ones that fall within the facility's existing footprint. This item pays for a master-planning document for the property and an engineering study of how to best provide access to utilities and services to the public health lab in the event of Fircrest School's closure.

#### **Integrated Licensing and Regulatory System**

The Department of Health will purchase an automated replacement system for licensing and disciplinary activities to regulate health providers, facilities, and services. (General Fund-Private/Local; Health Professions Account-State)

#### **Public Disclosure Request Increases**

There has been an increase in volume and complexity of public disclosure requests. Public awareness has increased due to the advent of the Internet-based Provider Credential Search, which, in turn, has created more public disclosure requests. Increased funding will enable the department to respond to these requests in an appropriate timeframe. (Health Professions Account-State)

**TB Testing - MTD**

Tuberculosis (TB), Hepatitis C, and other infectious diseases have significant fiscal impacts on local health jurisdictions (LHJs) which pay for testing, education, and surveillance. Improved testing and surveillance allow DOH to lead the statewide public health response to these health threats. Capacity will be added in three primary areas: Funding for the new faster TB test, the Mycobacterium Tuberculosis Direct (MTD) test which can be completed in six hours rather than two to four weeks, improving early intervention; funding of TB genotyping; and the addition of one epidemiologist.

**WIC Caseload and Local Agency Support**

Federal funds are available to expand expertise and capacity at the state Women, Infant, and Children (WIC) office to fulfill state-level responsibilities. The official WIC program caseload increased on January 1, 2004, from 147,000 to 160,000 per month. The Department of Health supports local agency contractors in two primary ways: first with pass-through funding, and second with strong, effective operations and systems at the state level. (General Fund-Federal)

**ACTIVITY DESCRIPTIONS****Administrative Activity**

The administrative activity in the Department of Health (DOH) manages the day-to-day operations and leadership functions of the agency, including oversight, policy development, and communications.

**Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion**

Working with local health departments, community-based organizations and groups, and the media, the Department of Health provides resources, materials, and tools to help educate the public on how to be healthy and prevent disease and injury. Activities include tobacco prevention and control; addressing priority injury prevention; promotion of regular physical activity and proper nutrition; diabetes prevention and control strategies; cancer prevention and control, including early detection; and developing plans for cardiovascular disease prevention and control.

**Drinking Water Protection**

The Drinking Water program works with the State Board of Health, local water systems, and communities to make sure that drinking water is safe and reliable. Activities include monitoring water quality tests; conducting inspections of water systems; enforcing regulations and safety measures; assisting water systems during planning, design, and construction of new facilities and upgrades; training and certifying water system operators; assuring proper wastewater treatment; and providing funding for water system improvements.

**Emergency Preparedness and Response**

The Department of Health coordinates efforts to prepare for and respond to public health emergencies from natural disasters to bioterrorism threats. Activities include developing and maintaining state, regional, and local emergency response plans; providing training and exercises to emergency responders from risk communication to mass vaccinations; assisting and developing partnerships with local, regional, state agency, and tribal partners; providing public education activities; and increasing electronic communications between the department, local health, hospitals, and emergency response.

**Community Environmental Health**

The Department of Health works with public health partners and businesses to protect the community from hazards in the environment by educating the public about how to make and keep their environment safe and healthy; developing environmental public health standards for small and medium-sized septic systems and swimming pools; helping the public prevent disease spread by animals; monitoring sources of radiation and radioactive materials, and radioactive waste; providing resources to clean areas that have been contaminated by dangerous materials; monitoring and preventing pesticide-related illness; and helping communities minimize or eliminate exposure to contaminants in the environment.

**Identify and Track Disease and Risks to the Public**

The Department of Health conducts scientific tracking of disease and identifies public health risks. Activities include monitoring and tracking disease and health trends; assisting local public health in investigating and reporting disease outbreaks; providing science-based information to public health partners; and making recommendations to prevent disease and the spread of disease.

### **Shellfish and Food Safety**

The Department of Health helps make sure that food served in restaurants and other food businesses is safe to eat. The department ensures that shellfish harvested from Washington waters is also safe to eat. Activities include monitoring local waters and beaches where shellfish grow for pollution and harmful toxins; developing public health standards for the safe sale and service of food; educating food service workers and the public on proper food safety; inspecting commercial shellfish companies; and investigating and controlling outbreaks of foodborne illnesses.

### **Strengthening the Public Health Network**

The Department of Health works to strengthen its partnerships with public health, particularly those agencies at the community level. Activities include providing resources for emergency medical and trauma services; promoting access to health care in rural communities; increasing electronic communications between the department, local health partners, hospitals, and emergency respondents; instituting electronic reporting of disease; coordinating response to emerging health issues with federal, state, and local partners; providing resources for public health workforce development; offering certified copies of birth, death, divorce, and marriage records to the public; building and supporting information networks to provide data that helps people make good decisions about public health; and maintaining a strong relationship between state and local public health jurisdictions, in which needed information flows swiftly and responses to public health problems and threats are coordinated and effective.

### **Communicable and Infectious Disease**

Working together with local health partners and other health agencies, the Department of Health works to protect the public from communicable and infectious disease, including sexually transmitted diseases, HIV/AIDS, hepatitis, and tuberculosis. Activities include educating the public on how to stay healthy and how to avoid contracting and spreading disease; monitoring the rate and frequency of infectious disease; assisting in the investigation of disease outbreaks around the clock; paying for drugs and limited medical care for eligible HIV clients; working with public health and health care partners to prevent and reduce the effects of communicable disease; and working with local health agencies to provide confidential testing.

### **Family and Child Health**

With public health partners, the Department of Health promotes the health of pregnant women, infants, children, youth, and their families through providing prenatal care and education for parents; distributing vaccines for children; investigating and controlling vaccine-preventable disease; providing nutrition and health education for pregnant women; providing healthy food for people on the Women, Infant, and Children (WIC) program; and linking children and families to health services.

### **Public Health Laboratory**

The Department of Health's Public Health Laboratories serve the public by providing accurate and timely laboratory results. The laboratories' around-the-clock, cutting-edge services are used by local health agencies, DOH programs, the state's health care system, and emergency response system. The laboratories test a range of specimens, including communicable disease, shellfish poisoning, foodborne illnesses, newborn screenings, and contamination of air, water, and food.

### **Safety and Quality of Health Care Services**

The Department of Health works with oversight groups to regulate health care providers and ensure compliance with health safety, and professional standards. Activities include licensing health care providers, licensing facilities, investigating complaints, disciplining health care providers who violate established standards, notifying the public of disciplinary actions, and maintaining the public history of disciplinary actions on the Internet.

### **State Board of Health**

The State Board of Health, although housed within DOH, works independently advising the state on health policy and adopting rules that guide many public health functions. It works with input from public health partners, local government, consumers, and the public. Key areas of rule-making include vital records; disease monitoring, reporting, and control; childhood health screenings; school immunizations; and food and drinking water safety.

### **Compensation Cost Adjustment**

This item reflects proposed compensation and benefit cost adjustments that were not allocated to individual agency activities. The agency will assign these costs to the proper activities after the budget is enacted.

### **Middle Management Reduction**

The Governor has directed that middle management be reduced by 1,000 positions by the end of the biennium. This item is this agency's share of the statewide amount. These savings will be assigned to the appropriate activities after the budget is enacted.